



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to Prison for Shooting Friend in Norwalk

A 33-year-old man was sentenced yesterday afternoon to 45 years to life in state prison for shooting his friend in the head and staging the incident as a suicide, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

At Wednesday's court appearance, Diego Arnold Castro of Norwalk pleaded no contest to one count of first-degree murder in case VA138175. Additionally, the defendant admitted a special allegation that he personally and intentionally discharged a firearm, which caused great bodily injury and death.

Deputy District Attorney Don Syn, who prosecuted the case, said Castro and victim Jose Angel Rios Alvarez, 25, had gone to school with one another and been friends for many years.

On Jan. 15, 2015, Castro picked up Alvarez and took him to the defendant's Norwalk home, the prosecutor said. While Alvarez was sitting on Castro's couch, the defendant came up behind the victim and shot him in the left side of his head, according to the prosecutor.

The defendant then shot himself in the leg to make it seem as though the victim had shot Castro and then committed suicide, the prosecutor added. The defendant called 911 and told authorities Alvarez had shot him and then killed himself, the prosecutor said.

Although law enforcement initially believed Castro's story, through further investigation, including learning that the victim was right handed, they discerned that the defendant's account was untrue, the prosecutor said. Castro was subsequently arrested and charged with murder on Jan. 27, 2015.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.